

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-9 are amended. Support for the amendment of independent claims 1 and 9 may be found at, for example, Figs. 1, 2, 4-6, and 8 of the Drawings, and corresponding disclosures in the Specification. Support for the amendment of claim 8 may be found at, for example, lines 20 to 23 on page 13 of the Specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons described below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Lin* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0043513). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Specifically, Applicants assert that *Lin* does not disclose or suggest a perpendicular magnetic recording head including at least a gap layer extending rearward from a recording-medium-facing surface on the side of a medium travel direction with respect to a magnetic pole layer, a thin film coil disposed in an insulation layer distinct from the gap layer, wherein the thin film coil generates the magnetic flux and is disposed on the side of the medium travel direction with respect to the gap layer, and a first magnetic shield layer extending rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the medium travel direction with respect to the gap layer, the first magnetic shield layer being disposed so as to be separated from the magnetic pole layer by the gap layer and physically coupled to the gap layer on the side close to the recording-medium-facing surface and to be coupled to the magnetic pole layer via a back gap on the side far apart from the recording-medium-facing surface, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 9.

Specifically, *Lin* discloses an inverted write head for perpendicular recording that provides the read head with shields that are limited to performing only shielding (*Lin*, abstract), in which a second space layer 34 and a third space layer 33 in the inverted write head separates a magnetic layer 23 from the write pole 22 (*Lin*, Fig. 3). However, as illustrated in Fig. 3, second space layer 34 physically separates third space layer 33 from magnetic layer 23 from a back gap 35 to the surface facing the recording medium. Therefore, *Lin* does not disclose a first magnetic shield layer that extends rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the medium travel direction with respect to the gap layer, where the first magnetic shield layer is disposed so as to be physically coupled to the gap layer and separated from the magnetic pole layer by the gap layer on the side close to the recording-medium-facing surface and to be coupled to the magnetic pole layer via a back gap on the side far apart from the recording-medium-facing surface, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that *Lin* does not disclose a perpendicular magnetic recording head as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 9.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, and 6-8 depend from claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Independent claim 9, although of different scope, recites features similar to those of claim 1 that define patentable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 6-9 are patentable over *Lin*, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1 and 6-9 and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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